



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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***Assistant Majority Leader Kevin de León Shepherds United Farm Workers
Organizing Rights Bill Off Assembly Floor***

SACRAMENTO—On Monday, Assistant Majority Leader Kevin de León (D-Los Angeles) led the charge to move Senate Bill 650 by Senator Carole Migden, which expands collective bargaining rights for California's farm workers, off the Assembly floor on a 44-23 vote. Following approval by the Senate early this morning, the measure is now before Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger for consideration.

"Over 400,000 farm workers in California struggle everyday to survive on extremely low wages and under precarious working conditions," stated Assistant Majority Leader De León. "I strongly urge the Governor to sign this legislation to finally give these workers a real opportunity to unionize and ultimately improve their livelihoods."

"Our farm workers have fought tirelessly for decades to secure organizing rights. It is unfortunate that this legislation is necessary to protect these workers from the intimidation that is repeatedly perpetuated on organizers and workers seeking unionization."

Under SB 650, farm workers will have the option to choose union representation through majority sign-up—also known as "card check"—in addition to the existing option of Agricultural Labor Relations Board (ALRB) secret ballot elections. This measure also increases protections for farm workers by strengthening penalties against employers that violate worker organizing rights.

SB 650 is sponsored by the United Farm Workers (UFW) in their ongoing effort to improve the lives of farm workers and their families.

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